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COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2013

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Representative Frank Lucas
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Conferee:

As you prepare to negotiate the 2013 Farm Bill, I ask that you support the Senate-passed Farm Bill's level of funding for incentives to purchase fresh, healthy and locally-grown fruits and vegetables. While the Senate-passed Farm Bill funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) incentive programs at \$20 million annually, the House-passed budget cuts it by 300 percent, funding it only at \$5 million. Funding SNAP incentive programs at \$20 million annually will not only help to provide access to healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income families, it will also help local, family farmers sell more goods at local farmers' markets, which benefits the economy.

Across the country, non-profit foundations have joined with state governments to form public-private partnerships to maximize the use and reach of SNAP incentive programs. In Michigan, for example, the Double Up Food Bucks Program (DUFEB), administered by the Fair Food Network, operates in over 90 farmers markets across the state, making it a leader in such public-private partnerships. DUFEB allows SNAP recipients to exchange one dollar in SNAP benefits for two dollars' worth of "food bucks" that can be spent on locally grown fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets, increasing their purchasing power. These successful programs already implemented in many states, promote healthy eating, increase families buying power and increase sales for local farmers. Thus, maintaining the Senate level of funding during ongoing Farm Bill budget negotiations would be beneficial in promoting access to healthy foods as well as growing our economy.

During consideration of the Farm Bill in the House, I submitted an amendment that would have increased funding for SNAP incentive programs. Additionally, I introduced H.R. 3072, the Local Food for Healthy Families Act of 2013, which grants \$20 million annually to create and expand SNAP incentive programs like DUFEB. Both measures increase access to healthy food for low-income individuals, promote job growth and improve the economy by supporting local farmers.

In conclusion, with \$5 billion in cuts to SNAP set to take place today, November 1, 2013, and potentially billions in additional cuts, it makes it even more important to fund SNAP incentive programs. Thus, I ask you to support the Senate-passed Farm Bill's level of funding for SNAP incentive programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Kildee".

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS